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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,422	11/25/2003	David William Trepass	282531US8X	2677
22850 7590 02/09/2007 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER COLAN, GIOVANNA B	
			ART UNIT 2162	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS			02/09/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,422	TREPESS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Giovanna Colan	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is issued in response to the Amendment filed on 10/10/2006.
2. Claims 1, 3 – 4, 21, and 34 were amended. No claims were canceled. No claims were added.
3. This action is made Final.
4. Claims 1 – 34 are pending in this application.
5. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claims 1, 3 – 4, 21, and 34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 1 – 4, 7, 10 – 11, 20 – 24, and 30 – 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain et al. (Jain hereinafter) (US Patent No. 5,983,237, issued: November 9, 1999) in view of Kohonen et al. (Kohonen hereinafter) (NPL: “Self Organization of Massive Document Collection”, IEEE, May 2000).

Regarding Claim 1, Jain discloses an information retrieval system in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in an array of nodes by mutual similarity of the information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions; the system comprising:

a user control for defining a search criterion for selecting information items (Col. 9, lines 25 – 26, Jain);

a detector for detecting those positions corresponding to the selected information items (Col. 1, 5 and 20, lines 34 – 37 and 6 – 8; respectively, the [ROW, COLUMN] position, Jain).

However, Jain is silent with respect to self-organizing map. On the other hand, Kohonen discloses self-organizing map (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the Kohonen's teachings to the system Jain. Skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so, as suggested by Kohonen (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen), to be able to map any representative subset of

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old input data and new input items straight into the most similar models without re computation of the whole mapping. In addition, both of the references (Jain and Kohonen) teach features that are directed to analogous art and they are directed to the same field of endeavor, such as, databases management systems, searching, and mapping. This close relation between both of the references highly suggests an expectation of success.

Furthermore, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses:

a graphical user interface for displaying display points representing those positions within the self-organizing map (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen) corresponding to the selected information items (Col. 11, and 12, lines 62 – 64 and 1 –3, respectively, Jain¹); and

a processor, responsive to the selected information items defined by the search criterion, for providing one or more representations representative of the information content of the selected information items (Col. 11, lines 24 – 29, the Query Processor, Jain).

Regarding Claim 2, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a system, wherein the graphical user interface is operable to display a two-dimensional display array of the said display points (Col. 16, lines 8 – 12, Jain²).

¹ In addition, the feature vector, displayed in the results, includes points as claimed (Col. 10, lines 36 – 39, Jain).

² Wherein examiner interprets the matrix as the two-dimensional array claimed.

Regarding Claim 3, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a system, in which a dither component is applied to the mapping between information items and nodes in the self-organizing map (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen) so that information items that share a node tend to map to closely spaced, but different positions in the displayed array (Col. 12, lines 61 – 65, Structure SYNONYM, Jain).

Regarding Claim 4, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a system, in which the information items are mapped to nodes in the self-organizing map (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen) on the basis of a feature vector derived from each information item (Col. 9, lines 44 – 50, Jain).

Regarding Claim 7, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a system, in which the information items comprise textual information, the nodes being mapped by mutual similarity of at least a part of the textual information (Col. 12, lines 61 – 65, Structure SYNONYM, Jain).

Regarding Claim 10, Tthe combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a system, wherein the said user control comprises:

search means for carrying out a search of the information items (Col. 9, lines 25 – 26, Jain);

the search means and the graphical user interface being arranged to co-operate (Fig. 4, item 212, Col. 15, lines 51 – 52, Jain) so that only those display points corresponding to information items selected by the search are displayed on the user display (Col. 15, lines 46 – 49, Jain).

Regarding Claim 11, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a system, wherein the said processor is operable to detect clusters of similar information items (Col.20, lines 6 – 12, Jain) and to provide representations representative of the information content of the respective clusters (Col. 20, lines 11 – 12, TID corresponds with “sky”, Jain).

Regarding Claim 20, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a Video acquisition and/or processing apparatus comprising a system (Fig. 3, item 150, Jain).

Regarding Claim 21, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses an information retrieval method in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in a self-organizing map (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen) by mutual similarity of the information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the self-organizing map (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen) the method comprising the steps of:

defining a search criterion for selecting information items (Col. 9, lines 25 – 26, Jain);

detecting those positions within the self-organizing map (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen) corresponding to the selected information items (Col. 15 and 20, lines 34 – 37 and 6 – 8; respectively, the [ROW, COLUMN] position, Jain³);

displaying at least display points which are at positions representing those positions within the self-organizing map (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen) corresponding to the selected information items (Col. 11 and 15, lines 62 – 64 and 46 – 49, respectively, Jain⁴); and

in response to the selected information items defined by the search criterion, providing one or more representations representative of the information content of the selected information items (Col. 11, lines 24 – 29, Jain).

Regarding Claim 22, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a method, wherein the displaying step displays a two-dimensional display array of the said display points (Col. 16, lines 8 – 12, Jain⁵).

Regarding Claim 23, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a method, comprising:

carrying out a search of the information items (Col. 9, lines 25 – 26, Jain);

³ Wherein the indexing B-tree corresponds to the array of nodes claimed.

⁴ In addition, the feature vector, displayed in the results, includes points as claimed (Col. 10, lines 36 – 39, Jain).

⁵ Wherein examiner interprets the matrix as the two-dimensional array claimed.

displaying on the display that only those display points corresponding to information items selected by the search are displayed on the user display (Col. 15, lines 46 – 49, Jain).

Regarding Claim 24, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a method, comprising detecting clusters of similar information items (Col. 20, lines 6 – 12, Jain) and providing representations representative of the information content of the respective clusters (Col. 20, lines 11 – 12, TID corresponds with “sky”, Jain).

Regarding Claim 30, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a computer software having program code for carrying out a method (Col. 22, lines 50 – 52, programming interface, Jain).

Regarding Claim 31, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a providing medium for providing program code (Col. 22, lines 50 – 52, the plug-in architecture, Jain).

Regarding Claim 32, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a medium, the medium being a storage medium (Col. 19, lines 51 – 52, Jain).

Regarding Claim 33, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a medium, the medium being a transmission medium (Col. 17, lines 15 – 18, Jain).

Regarding Claim 34, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a user interface of an information retrieval system in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes self-organizing map (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen) by mutual similarity of the information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in self-organizing map (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen) the interface comprising:

- a user control for defining a search criterion for selecting information items (Col. 9, lines 25 – 26, Jain); and

- a graphical user interface arranged to displaying display points representing those positions within the self-organizing map (Page 1, b. Scope of This Work, para. 1, Kohonen) corresponding to the selected information items (Col. 11 and 12, lines 62 – 64 and 1 - 3, respectively, Jain⁶) and to display one or more representations representative of the information content of the information items selected by the search criterion (Col. 11, lines 24 – 29, Jain).

Regarding Claim 35, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses a user interface, wherein the said user control comprises:

- search means for carrying out a search of the information items (Col. 9, lines 25 – 26, Jain);

⁶ In addition, the feature vector, displayed in the results, includes points as claimed (Col. 10, lines 36 – 39, Jain).

the search means and the graphical user interface being arranged to co-operate (Fig. 4, item 212, Col. 15, lines 51 – 52, Jain) so that only those display points corresponding to information items selected by the search are displayed on the user display (Col. 15, lines 46 – 49, Jain).

Regarding Claim 36, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses an interface according to claim 34, wherein the graphical user interface is arranged to display representations representative of the information content of respective-clusters of similar information items (Col. 20, lines 6 – 12, TID corresponds with “sky”, Jain).

9. Claims 5 – 6, 8 – 9, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain et al. (Jain hereinafter) (US Patent No. 5,983,237, issued: November 9, 1999), in view of Kohonen et al. (Kohonen hereinafter) (NPL: “Self Organization of Massive Document Collection”, IEEE, May 2000), and further in view of Herz et al. (Herz hereinafter) (US Patent No. 5,754,938, issued: May 19, 1998).

Regarding Claim 5, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses all the limitations as disclosed above including a feature vector for an information item. However, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen is silent with respect to a set of frequencies of occurrence. On the other hand, Herz discloses a feature vector for an information item that represents a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that

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information item, of each of a group of information features (Col. 56, lines 50 – 54, Herz). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the Herz' teachings to the system of the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen. Skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so, as suggested by Herz (Col. 7 and 8, lines 9 – 11 and 65 – 68 and 1 – 5, Herz), to measure similarities of profiles describing target objects of user's interests; and to further predict the information consumption patterns of a user allowing pre-caching of data at locations on the data communication network and at times that minimized the traffic flow in the communication network to thereby efficiently provide the desired information to the user and/or conserve valuable storage space by only storing those target object (or segments thereof) which are relevant to the user's interest. In addition, the applied references (Jain, Kohonen, and Herz) teach features that are directed to analogous art and they are directed to the same field of endeavor of database management system, such as, search engine and clustering. This relation between the applied references highly suggests an expectation of success.

Regarding Claim 6, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Herz discloses a system, in which the information items comprise textual information, the feature vector for an information item represents a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that information item, of each of a group of words (Col. 56, lines 47 – 52, textual attribute, Herz).

Regarding Claim 8, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Herz discloses a system, in which the information items are pre-processed for mapping by excluding words occurring with more than a threshold frequency amongst the set of information items (Col. 40, lines 14 – 16, Herz).

Regarding Claim 9, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Herz discloses a system, in which the information items are pre-processed for mapping by excluding words occurring with less than a threshold frequency amongst the set of information items (Col. 40, lines 14 – 16, Herz).

Regarding Claim 19, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Herz discloses a portable data processing device comprising a system according to claim 1 (Col. 30, lines 35 – 37, Herz).

10. Claims 12 – 18, 25 – 29, and 37 – 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain et al. (Jain hereinafter) (US Patent No. 5,983,237, issued: November 9, 1999), in view of Kohonen et al. (Kohonen hereinafter) (NPL: “Self Organization of Massive Document Collection”, IEEE, May 2000), and further in view of Weiss et al. (Weiss hereinafter) (US Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0138487 A1, published: September 26, 2002).

Regarding Claim 12, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen discloses all the limitations as disclosed above. However, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen is silent with respect to labels. On the other hand, Weiss discloses representations on the user display as a label of the display points corresponding to the information items represented (Fig. 7, 8, and 9, Page 4 and 5, [0095] and [0099], lines 5 – 6 and 5 – 9; respectively, Weiss). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the Weiss' teachings to the system of the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen. Skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so, as suggested by Weiss (Page 2, [0026] and [0027], Weiss), to provide presentation of web sites, such that the visualization reveals certain attributes of the presented web sites; and to provide a search of Web sites, which classifies the Web site according to their attributes. In addition, the applied references (Jain, Kohonen, and Weiss) teach features that are directed to analogous art and they are directed to the same field of endeavor of database management system, such as search engines with selection criteria. This relation between the applied references highly suggests an expectation of success.

Regarding Claim 13, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses a system, wherein the label is a word or set of words (Fig. 8, Page 5, [0099], lines 5 – 9, "Charlie's Angels", Weiss).

Regarding Claim 14, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses a system, wherein the processor determines, in respect of a set of information items with which a label is to be associated, the most frequently used word or set of words in the information items corresponding to the selected information items and applies that word or that set of words as the label (Page 2 and 4, [0046] and [0097], lines 1 – 2 and 1 – 4; respectively, Weiss).

Regarding Claim 15, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses an information retrieval system, in which the information items are at least associated with image items, and

wherein the processor is responsive to the selected information items (Col. 9, lines 25 – 26, Jain; and Fig. 6, items 103 – 104, Page 5, [01109] - [01110], lines 1 and 1 – 3, Weiss), for providing one or more image items representative of the information content of the selected information items defined by the search criterion (Col. 9, lines 25 – 29 Jain; and Fig. 6, item 105, Page 5, [01111], lines 1 – 5, Weiss).

Regarding Claim 16, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses a system, wherein the said processor is operable to select, from the set of image items, an image item which is representative of the set of image items as a whole according to a predetermined selection criterion (Page 6, [0139], lines 1 – 6, selecting the Entertainment “continent”, Weiss).

Regarding Claim 17, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses a system, wherein the processor is operable to select the image item a property of which is nearest to the average of the same property of the said set of image items (Page 6, [0139], lines 1 – 6, selecting the Entertainment “continent”, Weiss⁷).

Regarding Claim 18, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses a system, wherein the said one or more representative image items are applied as labels to the display points corresponding to the information items represented thereby (Page 6, [0137], lines 7 – 11, Weiss).

Regarding Claim 25, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses a method, comprising providing the or each said representation on the user display as a label of the display points corresponding to the information items represented thereby (Fig. 7, 8, and 9, Page 4 and 5, [0095] and [0099], lines 5 – 6 and 5 – 9; respectively, Weiss).

Regarding Claim 26, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses a method, wherein the label is a word or set of words (Fig. 8, Page 5, [0099], lines 5 – 9, “Charlie’s Angels”, Weiss).

⁷ Wherein examiner interprets the subject Entertainment “continent”, which includes TV series, Movies,

Regarding Claim 27, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses a method, in which the information items are at least associated with image items, and

comprising providing one or more image items representative of the information content of the selected information items defined by the search criterion (Col. 9, lines 25 – 29 Jain; and Fig. 6, item 105, Page 5, [0111], lines 1 – 5, Weiss).

Regarding Claim 28, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses a method, comprising selecting, from the set of image items, an image item which is representative of the set of image items as a whole according to a predetermined selection criterion (Page 6, [0139], lines 1 – 6, selecting the Entertainment “continent”, Weiss).

Regarding Claim 29, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses a method, comprising selecting the image item a property of which is nearest to the average of the same property of the said set of image items (Page 6, [0139], lines 1 – 6, selecting the Entertainment “continent”, Weiss⁸).

Regarding Claim 37, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses an interface, wherein graphical user interface is operable to provide the or each said representation as a label of the display points corresponding to

etc, as the property nearest to the average of the same property claimed.

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the information items represented thereby (Fig. 7, 8, and 9, Page 4 and 5, [0095] and [0099], lines 5 – 6 and 5 – 9; respectively, Weiss).

Regarding Claim 38, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses an interface, wherein the label is a word or set of words (Fig. 8, Page 5, [0099], lines 5 – 9, “Charlie’s Angels”, Weiss).

Regarding Claim 39, the combination of Jain in view of Kohonen and further in view of Weiss discloses an interface, wherein the said representations are image items which are applied as labels to the display points corresponding to the information items represented thereby (Page 6, [0137], lines 7 – 11, Weiss).

⁸ Wherein examiner interprets the subject Entertainment “continent”, which includes TV series, Movies,

Conclusion

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

2. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Prior Art Made Of Record

1. Jain et al. (US Patent No. 5,983,237, issued: November 9, 1999) discloses a visual dictionary.
2. Herz et al. (US Patent No. 5,754,938, issued: May 19, 1998) discloses a pseudonymous server for system for customized electronic identification of desirable objects.
3. Weiss et al. (US Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0138487 A1, published: September 26, 2002) discloses a method and system for mapping and searching the internet and displaying the results in a visual form.
4. Mao et al. (US Patent No. 7,031,909 B2) discloses a method and system naming a cluster of words and phrases.
5. Rajasekaran et al. (US Patent No. 6,959,303 B2) discloses efficient searching techniques.
6. Kohonen et al. (Kohonen hereinafter) (NPL: "Self Organization of Massive Document Collection", IEEE, May 2000).

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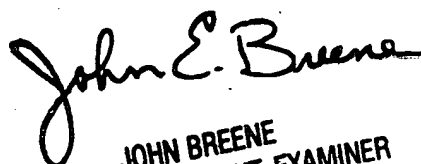
Points Of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Giovanna Colan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2752. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Giovanna Colan
Examiner
Art Unit 2162
December 15, 2006


JOHN BREENE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100